

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Sixty-Eighth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 163.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of Westbrook Seminary.

Resolved, That there be and thereby is appropriated to be
2 paid Westbrook Seminary for the use and benefit of that
3 institution, for each of the years, eighteen hundred and
4 ninety-seven and eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, the
5 sum of two thousand dollars.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Westbrook Seminary was established under an act of the Legislature of Maine entitled "An act to establish a Literary Institution in Westbrook" approved March 4, 1831.

The only assistance it has ever received from the State is an appropriation of \$1,000 by resolve of March 8, 1832, \$1,000 March 4, 1833, and one-half township of land by resolve of Aug. 23, 1850, three-fourths of the proceeds of which was to be kept as a permanent fund.

The institution has been constantly open, affording facilities for education of both sexes in the higher branches of learning. Its constant aim has been to provide boarding facilities and instruction at the very lowest possible expense, to bring its benefits within the reach of aspiring young men and women of scanty means, who could not otherwise obtain a liberal education.

By an act of the Legislature approved March 11, 1863, the trustees were authorized to prescribe a course of study for young ladies equivalent to that of any female college in New England, and to confer the collegiate honors and degrees that are granted by female colleges. Since that time a collegiate department for young ladies has been maintained and degrees have been regularly conferred.

Since special training for those designing to teach has been required, a normal department for those designing to teach has been established and maintained, giving, in addition to the other courses, particular instruction in that department.

The institution is located two and one-half miles from Portland on the line of electric cars and near the Maine Central and Portland & Rochester station, in that part of the old town of Westbrook, now Deering. It has real estate consisting of about five acres of land, a seminary building and two large dormi-

tories, all substantially built of brick and granite, besides a gymnasium and an interest in a church, all estimated to be worth, for school purposes, about \$75,000. It has a fund of only about \$19,000, a large part of which was donated upon the condition that the income only should be used. It has a floating debt of about \$9,000, incurred mainly from the fact that the additional facilities required for proper instruction in the various departments and repairs of the buildings rendered an extra outlay absolutely necessary. One of the dormitories has been thoroughly repaired and put in excellent condition, the Seminary building has also been thoroughly repaired and a chemical laboratory provided. For these repairs and improvements the funds have been mainly contributed by the friends of the institution. The other dormitory is in absolute need of repair and the floating debt must be paid. In the act establishing the institution, power is reserved to the Legislature to alter, restrain or enlarge at any time, any of the powers conferred, as the good of the public may require. From a careful estimate from such data as are now accessible, the books and records having been destroyed in the great fire of 1866, there has been received and disbursed for educational purposes at this institution since its establishment, three-fourths of a million of dollars. This, of course, includes amounts received for board and tuition, the balance having been contributed by the friends of the institution, who since 1872 have contributed in round numbers \$30,000.

Considering that at all times the institution is under Legislative control, and considering the great benefit it has conferred upon the people of the State, and the very small assistance it has received from the State, its call for assistance in an emergency cannot be regarded as unreasonable.

ALFRED WOODMAN,
President of the Trustees.

CHARLES S. FOBES,
Treasurer.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

February 26, 1897.

Reported by Mr. BURNS of Westbrook, from Committee on Education, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*